

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 1-24 are pending after entry of this Amendment.
- Claims 1-6, and 14-24 are rejected by Examiner.
- Claims 1-6, and 14-24 are cancelled after entry of this Amendment.
- Claims 7-13 are allowed by Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for identification of allowable subject matter. Applicants accept the identification and have cancelled all remaining claims without disclaimer or prejudice.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,918,232 to Pouschine. Applicants have cancelled Claim 14 without disclaimer or prejudice.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,918,232 to Pouschine in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,807 to Hills. Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 15-16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,918,232 to Pouschine in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,807 to Hills and in further view of "Official Notice". Applicants have cancelled Claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,918,232 to Pouschine in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,807 to Hills and in

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**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

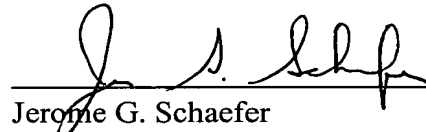
further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,341,289 to Burroughs. Applicants have cancelled Claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 17-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,918,232 to Pouschine in view of the admitted prior art (APA) pages 1-2. Applicants have cancelled Claims 17-24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Conclusion

Applicants accept the identification of Claims 7-13 of the present Application as being allowable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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